THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India have put in place a system for conducting checks of the discretionary lending by CMDs and other senior offcials of banks at half-yearly intervals. The focus of these reviews is on bringing about the much needed discipline in the management of credit portfolios in banks. Where frequent transgressions are found to be taking place and/or transgressions are not subsequently ratified by the appropriate higher authority, RBI during inspection brings this deficiency to the notice of the bank in order to rectify the position.

Money Laundering

2259. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a high power Committee to go through the cases of money laundering in the country;

(b) if so, the main functions of this Committee and what is the composition; and

(c) the time limit fixed by the Government for submitting its report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government have appointed a high power committee to look into all aspects of Money-Laundering, with the following objectives :

(i) To suggest a framework of a legislation to deal with money-laundering.

(ii) To sugget changes in the existing laws to strengthen the provisions regarding money-laundering, after safe-guarding privacy.

(iii) To find out the adequacy of the existing provisions in Indian laws to deal with money-laundering.

(iv) To examine the provisions of law which are redundant in the wake of liberalisation and also cause avoidable harrassment to the public.

(v) If the existing provisions are found to be inadequate to deal with the problem of money-laundering, to suggest new legislation.

The Committee consists of the representatives of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Enforcement Directorate the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Reserve Bank of India and the Department of Economic Affairs.

(c) The Committee has been given time upto 31.12.1996 to submit its report.

[Translation]

Coal Handling Plants

2260. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal handling plants set up in BCCL after the nationalisation of coal industry;

(b) the collieries where these plants have been set up and the details of the amount spent on the setting up of each plant;

(c) the number of plants out of it which are functioning with their full capacity;

(d) the estimated cost of setting up of these handling plants and actual cost incurred on them; and

(e) the reason of cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b), (d) to (e). Since nationalisation of coal industry, 34 Coal Handling Plants (CHPs) have been set up in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). Details of colleries where these plants have been set up are given in the enclosed statement. The estimated cost for setting up of these plants was Rs. 40.05 crores and the actual expenditure incurred is Rs. 44.84 crores. The escalation in the cost is due to increase in the cost of essential inputs which is within normal limits.

(c) Of the 34 CHPs installed, 28 plants are fully functional.

STATEMENT

Location of CHPs at collieries of BCCL	Nos.
1	2
Nudkhurkee	2
Block-II	2
Jamunia	2
Muraidih	2
Damoda	1
Govindpur	2
Block-IV	1
Katras	1
Keshalpur	1
Sendra Bansjora	1
Nichitpur	1
N.T. OCP	1
Dhansar	1
Tetulmari	1
Katri	1

1	2
Kustore	2
Goluckdih	3
Bera	1
N. Tisra	2
S. Tisra	1
Bhowra	1
N. Amalabad	1
Damgoria	1
Junkundar	1
Benidih	1
Total	34

[English]

Development of Large Cardamom

2261. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board propose to build a proper infrastructure for the development of large cardamom by pooling in technical personnel permanently;

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether Spices Board proposes to set up a separate Directorate for the development of large cardamom with its office in Sikkim region;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Directorate is likely to be opened; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce has a well knit set up in Sikkim State as well as in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal for catering to the development needs of large cardamom. The Board is implementing both short-term and long-term programmes for the benefit of growers involved in raising large cardamom crop. The schemes being implemented include production and supply of quality planting materials through certified nurseries; replanting of senile and uneconomic gardens; irrigation and post-harvest improvement. A Regional Office headed by a Deputy Director at Gangtok is exclusively coordinating the activities of four Zonal Office and two Field Offices in Sikkim and they are responsible for the Extension Advisory Services and implementation of various developmental programmes in coordination with the State Governments concerned. Spices Board is also having a Regional Research Station of Indian Cardamom Institute at Gangtok, which takes care of the research needs of large cardamoms.

(c) to (e). In view of the already existing set up for the development of large cardamom, the Government does not consider it necessary to set up a separate Directorate for development of large cardamom.

Advocates without Chambers

2262. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Supreme Court Advocates are working without chambers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide atleast a table space to all such advocates in the precinct of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the time by which the space is likely to be provided to all such Advocates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing chambers which were constructed in 1958 have become insufficient due to steep increase in the number of Advocates with the passage of time.

(c) and (d). The construction of 136 additional chambers for the Advocates of Supreme Court at Dr. Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi is in progress. The new building has also a provision for dormitory of 20 cubicles on each floor where 20 Advocates could be provided tables and chairs for working.

World Bank Mission

2263. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government apprised the World Bank Mission recently already various proposals for financial assistance under infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details of infrastructure projects proposed for World Bank assistance, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) the reaction of the World Bank Mission to these projects; and

(d) the details of follow-up action to be taken by Union/State Government and present status of the proposals and tentative time schedule for clearance/ implementation particular with reference to projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement on projects in the infrastructure sector posed for World Bank assistance is enclosed.